

Abdomen: Length 2.40 mm; maximum breadth 2.20 mm; oval but rounded behind. Dorsum grey, mottled with white that forms a pattern with grey veins in the centre. Venter grey with white markings, covered by papillae all over. Spinnerets compact. Epigynum as in Fig. 3.

Total length: Female 4.08 mm.

Holotype Female, in spirit, INDIA: Jammu and Kashmir; Shalimar Gardens, Srinagar, 25.v.1977, G.L. Sadana.

This species slightly resembles *Theridion tikaderi* Patel but can be separated from it as follows (i) Absence of U-shaped mark on cephalothorax, (ii) The abdomen is oval, grey,

mottled with white and forming a pattern with grey veins in the centre, while in *T. tikaderi*, abdomen is globular and dorsal and ventral sides are with chalky white and chocolate patches, (iii) Epigynum is also structurally different.

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A NEW *SONERILA* ROXB. (MELASTOMATACEAE) FROM SOUTHERN INDIA¹

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(With nine text-figures)

Sonerila Kanniyakumariana sp. nov.

Herbae succulentae, 50-65 cm altae; caules subrosei, erecti (nodi inferi rare decumbenti et radicanti), minute alati, glabri. Folia 0.5 - 4.2 x 0.5 - 2.5 cm, superi subsessiles, inferi breviter petiolati, ovati ad deltoidi, succulenti, glabri, ad apicem acuti, ad basim cordati vel subcordati, 3-5-nervati; margines serrati, hyalini. Racemi terminales, scropioidei, floribus 3-5, flori subrosei; pedunculi 5-7 mm longi, glabri. Calycis tubi 5-8 mm longi, infundibuliformes, glabri; calycis lobi 3, utrumque c. 3 x 2 mm, triangulare. Petala 3, utrumque usque ad 1.5 cm latum, ovato-orbiculare, apiculatum. Stamina 3; filamenta c. 5 mm longa, crassa, glabra; antherae lanceatae, usque ad 6 x 2 mm, rostratae. Stylus 10-12 mm longus; stigma capitellatum. Capsulae 8-10 x 4-5 mm, infundibuliformes, glabrae; semina c. 1 mm longa, tuberculata.

Holotypus (Gopalan 77180, CAL) et isotypus (Gopalan 77180, MH-num. acc. no. 139866 - 139874) in Upper Kodayar in ditione Kanniyakumari in statu Tamilnadensi, India, die

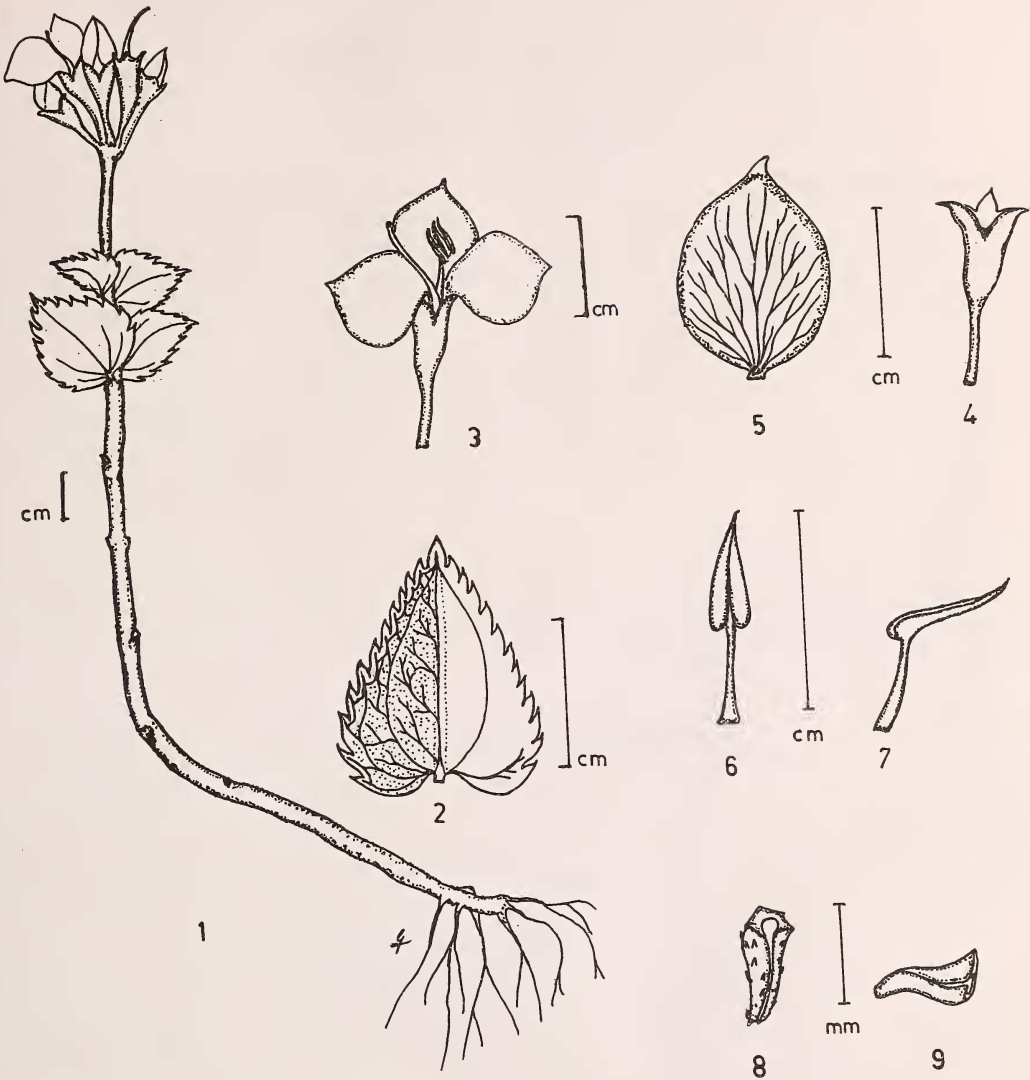
20.3.1984 lecti. Paratypi (Henry 77001, MH-num. acc. no. 139875 - 139883) in Upper Kodayar, versus viam ad Muthukuzhivayal, die 16.2.1983 lecti.

Succulent herbs 50-65 cm tall; stems pinkish, erect (rarely decumbent and rooting at lower nodes), minutely winged, glabrous. Leaves 0.5 - 4.2 x 0.5 - 2.5 cm, upper subsessile, lower shortly petioled, ovate to deltoid, fleshy, glabrous, acute at apex, cordate or subcordate at base, 3-5 nerved; margins serrate, hyaline. Flowers pinkish, 3-5 in terminal scorpioid racemes; peduncles 5-7 mm long, glabrous. Calyx tube 5-8 mm long, funnel-shaped, glabrous; calyx lobes 3, each c. 3 x 2 mm, triangular. Petals 3, each up to 1.5 cm across, ovate-orbicular, apiculate. Stamens 3; filaments c. 5 mm long, thick, glabrous; anthers up to 6 x 2 mm, lanceate, beaked. Style 10 - 12 mm long; stigma capitellate. Capsules 8 - 10 x 4 - 5 mm, funnel-shaped, glabrous; seeds c. 1 mm long, tuberculate. (Figs. 1-9).

Holotype (Gopalan 77180, CAL) and isotypes (Gopalan 77180, MH-acc. no. 139866 - 139874) were collected at Upper Kodayar in Kanniyakumari District, Tamilnadu on

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²Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore (India).



Figs. 1-9. *Sonerila kanniyakumariana* sp. nov.

1. Portion of plant; 2. Leaf; 3. Flower; 4. Calyx; 5. Petal; 6 & 7. Stamen (2 views); 8 & 9. Seed (2 views).

20.3.1984. Paratypes (Henry 77001, MH-acc. No. 139875 - 139883) were collected from Upper Kodayar on the way to Muthukuzhivayal on 16.2.1983.

This species is perhaps allied to the Sri Lankan *Sonerila robusta* Arn. but differs in: glabrous stem; leaves glabrous, serrate, somewhat crowded towards the apices of stems; and

capsules funnel-shaped, glabrous.

Occurs on exposed rocky slopes and road-cuttings in evergreen forests. Rare.

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